

HURRICANE KATRINA

Disaster brings family to watch Baker football

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Tulane University freshman enrolls at KU

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City to adopt family displaced by hurricane

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Blood center says donations will be needed

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NEW ORLEANS: 'SOS'

Anarchy, unrest fill city

Red Cross shelters full; 1.8 million without power

By Sam Coates and Dan Eggen

The Washington Post

NEW ORLEANS — Federal and local authorities struggled Thursday to regain control of this ruined and lawless city, where tens of thousands of desperate refugees remained stranded with little hope of rescue and rapidly diminishing supplies of food and drinking water.

"This is a desperate SOS," New Orleans' beleaguered mayor, Ray Nagin, said at one point in the day.

The chaos that has gripped New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina also showed signs Thursday of spreading to Baton Rouge and along the storm-ravaged Gulf Coast, as weary refugees continued their slow and confused exodus to higher ground. Fresh waves of National Guard troops began pouring into the region in an attempt to quell the unrest, but large swaths of New Orleans and other sodden areas remained essentially ungoverned.

By the end of the day, the American Red Cross announced that its hurricane shelters in seven states were full, with an estimated 76,000 refugees at facilities in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Texas and Arkansas. The official death toll in Mississippi climbed to more than 100, while officials in Louisiana repeated warnings that thousands could be dead in New Orleans alone. The Energy Department said about 1.8 million customers remained without power because of Katrina.

Those left behind in the Crescent City, including many with diabetes and other worsening health conditions, clung to rooftops, gathered on overpasses and bridges and huddled

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MILVERTHA HENDRICKS, 84, WAITS IN THE RAIN with other flood victims Thursday outside the convention center in New Orleans. Officials called for a mandatory evacuation of the city, but many residents remained and had to be rescued from flooded homes and hotels.

Eric Gay/AP Photo

Sebelius deploys Guard

By Scott Rothschild

srothschild@ljworld.com

TOPEKA — Gov. Kathleen Sebelius on Thursday deployed more than 120 Kansas National Guard soldiers to Louisiana to help in the recovery from Hurricane Katrina and took steps to prepare the state to receive storm refugees.

"We in Kansas have a long tradition of helping neighbors in need, regardless of whether they are in town or across the country," Sebelius said.

Sebelius sent troops from the 35th Infantry Division, headquartered at Fort Leavenworth, and two Blackhawk helicopters. The division includes personnel from Kansas, Missouri and Illinois.

"Our guardsmen and women tell me they are ready to go and do whatever is needed to help the victims get back on their feet," she said.

Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general and director of Kansas Emergency Management and Kansas Homeland Security, said about 700 more guardsmen were on standby ready to go if needed.

"What we told all of our soldiers and airmen is you will likely have a chance to spend some time in Mississippi and Louisiana in the years and

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● See what they're saying On the Street. Page 3B

ROCHELLE JAMES' parents and other relatives are in a hotel in Greenville, Miss. Her family fled New Orleans Sunday morning before the hurricane, said James, a 23-year-old graduate student at Kansas University. The family is assuming their house is destroyed.



Mike Yoder/Journal-World Photo

KU student believes home destroyed

By Dave Ranney

dranney@ljworld.com

Pushed out by Hurricane Katrina, Rochelle James' parents, three sisters, a brother and his wife, two nephews and her father's ex-wife are now in a hotel in Greenville, Miss.

"My family evacuated Sunday morning before the hurricane," said James, 23, a Kansas University graduate student who grew up in New Orleans and whose family's home is there.

"Our house is three blocks from Lake Pontchartrain," she said. "My high school was on the lake."

No one knows for sure, but James and her parents assume the family home is under water.

"To think otherwise would be unrealistic," she said. "I talked to my mom

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Journal-World hurricane stories, in an agreement with Louisiana's Times-Picayune newspaper, will include links to that paper's reports at www.nola.com/hurricane/katrina.

an hour ago. They're saying there are 40,000 homes under water."

James said her family had no place to go but couldn't stay where they were.

"It's not that they can't stay where they are, it's that they can't afford it," she said. "People are being told they won't be able to go back for a couple months."

James said she was uncertain where her family would go or what they would do now.

"I don't know that they would come here," she said. "If they all had a place

to stay and it was free, they wouldn't have to work, they could get by. But if it's not free, they'll have to go where they could get jobs."

James said her parents — her father is a retired teacher, her mother is a high school guidance counselor — are hoping to find accommodations as close as possible to New Orleans.

"They want to get back to fix up the house, but they can't stay there," she said, "because there aren't any utilities, so they'll have to drive back and forth. With travel costs being so high, it would make sense to be down there rather than up here."

Offers of assistance may be relayed to James via e-mail — rljames@ku.edu — or by calling the KU Campus Min-

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Chance for rain



High: 84 Low: 62
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COMING SATURDAY

A minister who turned 51 acres of Overland Park land into a congregation of 4,100 members wants to build Lawrence's first megachurch. In Pulse

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